Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

EUCOM

UNCLAS ANKARA 6241

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN'S COMMENTS ON CYPRUS AND NATIONAL FRONT UNITY

REF: ANKARA 6183

SUMMARY: DEPPRIMIN ERBAKAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) IN REMARKS TO REPORTERS AUGUST 9 AND 10 CONFIRMED NSP OPPOSITION TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS (REFTEL) AND INDICATED THAT JUSTICE PARTY (JP) ACTIONS WERE "DIVIDING" THE NATIONALIST FRONT COALITON. END SUMMARY.

1. ON CYPRUS: IN STATEMENT TO REPORTERS AT ISTANBUL AUGUST 9, ERBAKAN SAID THAT "NO ONE WILL DARE TO GIVE CONCESSIONS FROM THE RIGHTS WON BY THE BLOOD SHED BY OUR MARTYRS. AS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NSP, WE WILL NEVER FAVOR CONCESSIONS IN CYPRUS." AT A

PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 10, ERBAKAN ASKED WHAT WOULD BE THE YARDSTICK FOR LAND CONCESSIONS "SINCE WE HAD THE WHOLE ISLAND FOR 400 YEARS, WOULD WE BE UNJUSTIFIED IF WE ASKED FOR ALL OF IT?"

2. ON NATIONALIST FRONT UNITY: ERBAKAN STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE JP FREQUENTLY CALLED UPON THE NSP NOT TODIVIDE THE NATIONALIST FRONT, THE JP WAS "NOT HESITATING" TO DIVIDE THE FRONT IN ORDER TO SECURE ADVANTAGES FOR ITSELF. HE SAID THAT IN KONYA, WHERE THE NSP WAS STRONGER THAN THE JP AND HAD REQUESTED JP SUPPORT FOR THE NSP SENATORIAL CANDIDATES, "OUR JP FRIENDS SEEM TO HAVE ADVOCATED THE PRINCIPLE THAT FRIENDSHIP IS ONE THING, BUT BUSINESS IS ANOTHER". ERBAKAN, NOT CLOSING THE DOOR TO ELECTORAL COOPERATION, NOTED THAT THREE WEEKS REMAINED TO WORK OUT AGREEMENTS IN THE OTHER PROVINCES FOR COOPERATION AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES.

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, CY To: STATE

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